

- Hall's Measure Will Help National Guard and Reserve Members Mobilized for Overseas Deployment -

Washington, DC – U.S. Rep. John Hall's (D-NY19) measure to protect the credit ratings of Reservists and National Guard soldiers called into active duty was approved by the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity last week.

Hall's measure, an amendment to H.R. 513, would allow Reserve forces to request that if their credit account is past due or delinquent, credit reporting companies enter a notation that this is due to military service and should be disregarded. Hall's amendment would also prevent the annotation from harming a service member's current or future credit.

"The last thing a soldier fighting in a war zone should worry about is their credit rating," said Hall. "My amendment will help ensure that no reservists' credit is hurt as a result of their military service."

Hall came to Congress in January pledging to help military personnel whose financial circumstances are hurt by their service duty.

"Soldiers from my district have told me that the war in Iraq has resulted in an increase in bankruptcies, credit debt and other financial problems among many service families whose resources are stretched to the max," said Hall. "When soldiers come home from a tremendously difficult tour of duty, the last thing they need to face is angry creditors or a ruined financial rating. This amendment is a first step in easing some of that burden."

U.S. Rep. Robert Brady (D-PA) is the chief sponsor of H.R. 513, the National Heroes Credit Protection Act.

Hall thanked Brady as well as the VA Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity Chairwoman Stephanie Herseth-Sandlin (D-SD) and Ranking Member John Boozman (R-AR) for their leadership on the issue.

H.R. 513 will now move to the full House Veterans Affairs Committee and, if approved, to the House floor for consideration.